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Scrapping the Arrow

PRIME Minister Diefenbaker announced yesterday that the government had decided finally to discontinue the Arrow jet interception defence program, which means that neither this supersonic fighter nor the Orenda engines manufactured by the same interests will be ordered for the RCAF. The decision also affects the air force, because for the next three years unless other developments come it will have to rely on the CF100, its best fighter in service now. The federal government's decision cannot have been an easy one to take in view of the immediate consequences to Canada, and possibly a still more difficult one to avoid in the light of the over-all circumstances.

Mr. Diefenbaker indicated the government's regret at having to take this action. He pointed to a time lag of three years between effective equipping of the RCAF with the new fighter, and the concurrent development throughout the world of missile weapons such as the Bomarc. Airplane design has already leap-frogged the intended purpose of the Arrow to plan still speedier jet fighters, with a faster climb from smaller airdromes, to cover the interim period while there are still manned bombers to be reckoned with in defence calculations. He showed, also, that the United States was not interested in acquiring the Arrow for these reasons. Finally, the astronomical costs must have weighed.

At Malton, where the A.V. Roe Company produced the prototype Arrows and test-flew them successfully, the decision probably had been expected. Some 15,000 aircraft and engine workers were notified at once that production would be stopped indefinitely, both on the airplane and the Iroquois-type engine. Final notice of the layoff was given at the big Malton plants.

The administration's decision leaves some big questions for the future. What is to be the role of the RCAF now, at home and overseas? Can any defence production be found to take the place of the Arrow program insofar as Canadian producers are concerned? The United States is assuming two-thirds of the cost of the missiles program, without direct indication yet that any of this production will be allotted in Canada. All these are issues affecting the economy of this country and considerable numbers of its citizens directly and indirectly concerned with defence production. Finally there is Canada's vast financial commitment on the experimental development of the supersonic Arrow which now is not to go into military production.

That is a disappointing ending to a program begun in high hope on Canada's own initiative. Some 14,600 skilled men have been left without jobs. If there is a silver lining anywhere to this cloud the country would like to hear of it.

A Fine Service

ONE of the most heartening projects of our times, perhaps, was the establishment of the blood bank. It has been a universal blessing, making available to all in need this precious life-giving fluid, without cost. Because of the willingness of volunteers to donate to the bank countless persons have avoided death or otherwise been speeded on the way to recovery. Blood donors have every reason to feel proud of their humanitarian gesture.

A note from Ottawa underlines the value of blood transfusion and the part this country is playing in keeping the bank filled and thus ensuring that no one will go without. According to the national director of the Red Cross transfusion service women contribute three-fifths of the blood given in this country, a proportion much to their credit, and Canada as a nation has the highest proportion of donors in the world—20 in every 10,000 population. At first glance this seems a small number of donors, but of necessity many considerations enter into donation and acceptance of blood, and if Canada leads with this figure the average must be deemed satisfactory.

Disclosure that Canadian donors are ahead of their fellows elsewhere is cause for gratification but not for undue self-esteem. This is such a favored land compared with many others that its willingness to lend a helping hand is an obligation and, as these figures show, in the matter of blood giving that responsibility is being accepted in good measure. Blood donation is a matter of continuous giving, however, if the banks have to be ready at all times to meet the demand. One is glad to think that this area does its part in such a fine service.

The local record in this respect is probably on a par with the rest of Canada and it is not likely to lessen. Most blood donors keep faithfully to this volunteer giving so that succor may be available when required.

Heart Foundation Appeal

THROUGHOUT Canada this month the Canadian Heart Fund is making an appeal to citizens on the basis of its continuing program of research into one of the most serious of all human ailments. In each of the provinces and in every large centre the Foundation is drawing the attention of the public to the need for still more vigorous application of the remedies known to medicine and surgery now, and the concentrated development of research in that connection.

The national objective of the drive is $1,100,000, required to carry on an effective program of research and education. The statistics on heart failure on this continent carry their own comment. Too many individuals are living under strain, and some drive themselves beyond the limit of natural recuperation. In a number of instances it is the heart—in itself a matchless engine—which goes down first, with all of the consequences which can follow. At one time considered to be the unavoidable inheritance of age, heart disease is known now to have a much wider incidence than that. Also, considerable progress has been made in treating the ailment when caught in time. It is to carry on this work that the public is being asked for its understanding and support.

Interpreting the News

Europe Sympathetic

By ED SIMON

Canadian Press Staff Writer

THE news of the temporary withdrawal of State Secretary Dulles from the international scene left many Europeans feeling like an audience that has come to see the villian of a melodrama and discovered that his place is being taken by an understudy.

In the Western alliance, Dulles is a man who commands respect rather than love. But, like many men before him, he is discovering new friends in his hour of adversity.

During the Suez crisis, when the wisdom of military action against Egypt was heatedly debated on every street-corner, the disputants were united in the conviction that Dulles was largely to blame. He had been too friendly, or not friendly enough, to the Egyptians. He had been obsessed with, or oblivious to, the danger of Communist penetration in the Middle East.

* * *

Similar sentiments were heard after the tension arose over West Berlin. There was alarm lest he provoke war by being unduly firm with the Russians. There was also fear that he might appease the Russians by being unduly flexible.

Yet, when Dulles took to his hospital bed, the chorus of sympathy was swelled by voices unaccustomed to singing his praises. Randolph Churchill, who favors a tough line against the Russians, said, "He has saved peace without betraying freedom."

In retrospect, it appears that Dulles has taken pains to put his house in order before applying for sick leave. His recently completed tour of Western capitals presumably gave him ample opportunity to compare notes on a common approach to cold war problems.

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The announcement from the White House made it clear that the 70-year-old secretary had no intention of delegating any more than day-to-day responsibilities to his subordinates. He would be "available for consultation" and would concentrate on "the complicated and grave problems" of West Berlin.

Nothing Changes — Just the Dates

Relief From

A Change Of Posture

(From The Times, London)

LORD TEMPLEWOOD has given a delightful picture, in recalling his early political life, of a very senior civil servant who, finding that his mind worked best when he was on horseback, had a saddle installed in his room at the Colonial Office. We may well call such a man, seated astride his artificial horse deep in thought, an eccentric, but after all did not Napoleon get into a hot bath when he wished to plan his next campaign, and lesser men have found it agonizingly difficult to maintain constructive thought for long while sitting "properly" in a chair.

No doubt it can be done. Chess players suggest themselves as examples of this, for pictures of them show that, whatever anguish may find expression in their faces, they manage to retain a more or less orthodox thinking posture.

Among all those authors who are depicted on wrappers as sitting composedly and in uncrumpled clothes before a tidy desk there are also presumably one or two who get through their day's work without losing their poise. But most of them find it necessary to humor their brain, whether it be working before breakfast, drinking absinthe, or, as A. A. Milne sometimes did, by practising his putting on the carpet of his study.

A change of posture seems most often to bring relief. Fleet Street once boasted a leader writer whose argument was never more cogent or more easily expressed than when he was lying stretched out face downwards on the floor.

Certainly as concentration deepens there is a general tendency for the legs to rise to the same level as, and even above the head. In no time at all they are at desk level, provided they are seen by no disapproving eye, and the temptation to climb to the top of the mantelpiece is in such circumstances irresistible to them. Indeed some modern chairs recognize this need in their design.

To take the argument a step farther, the story is told of a prominent lawyer who, when about to take on a specially intractable problem, would stand on his head in the office for ten minutes—having first taken the precaution to lock the door—with the purpose of clearing his brain.

In face of such examples as this it is easy to sympathize with Disraeli's remark to the effect that when he could not see clearly what ought to be done he found it best to take to his bed.

One cannot help wondering what would have happened in that room in the Colonial Office if Lord Templewood's senior had been of a similar way of thinking.

Fun, Fact and Fiction

According to a health survey the average person had 2.6 illnesses last year. The .6 illness is the one rendering you too sick to go to work but not too sick to vacuum the rugs while your wife goes shopping.

* * *

A castaway from a wrecked ship was captured by cannibals. Each day his arm was cut by a dagger and the natives would drink his blood. Finally one day he called the chief over.

"You can kill me and eat me if you want to," he said, "but I'm tired of being stuck for the drinks."

Gerald Waring

Reports from Ottawa

WANT to know the real reason Canada never joined the Organization of American States?

Protocol.

"The abstention was justified because of the involvements which would face the Queen, or King, of Canada. The Crown would, the fear was expressed, have been under the obligation of visiting all Latin American states whenever a Canadian visit was programmed."

There. Finally the mystery of that "vacant chair at the Pan-American Union" is explained. At least to the satisfaction of Frank M. Coffin, Democratic congressman from the second district of the State of Maine.

Coffin, you'll remember, is a member of the two-man House team which has been making an intensive study of Canadian-American relations over the last two years. A point he has repeatedly made is that Americans don't know enough about Canada and Canadians. But it's a little odd that he should go to this length to prove it.

* * *

In fairness to Coffin, it should be emphasized that he knows much more about Canada and our problems vis-a-vis the U.S. than most of his countrymen. And also probably more than any other member of the Congress since the electoral demise of his study team side-kick, Brooks Hays of Arkansas.

This shows up in the speech he made at Portland, Me., last Friday. While he was way off base on Canada and the OAS, he was solid on a lot of other points.

"Our logical starting point, as we build the coalition for the future, is Canada . . . a nation unsurpassed for its ties with other nations. It is a North American nation, a Western Hemisphere nation, an Atlantic nation . . . with close ties to both the United Kingdom and the United States, an Arctic nation, a Commonwealth nation, a Colombo Plan nation. . . .

"Given a consistent (American) policy of awareness, of sharing of trust, of forbearance on our part, she can be a reliable and ingenious interpreter and broker in many or the world's economic and political markets."

* * *

It isn't often that a prominent American talks with both knowledge and frankness about his touchy Canadian cousins. Coffin did. It is refreshing and helpful.

He sees his study mission as having "a back door influence" on U.S. policy. Reasonable solutions of major Canada-U.S. problems are possible "only if both Congress and the executive were able to take the broad view." He suggests a series of bilateral package deals such as a swap of corridor rights through the Alaskan Panhandle in return for a share of Canada's Yukon power. That particular swap is a short-ended stick for Canada, but the idea is worth exploring. What else will Washington swap?

Coffin says Canada can "exercise a fruitful influence" on, and has "valuable assets to contribute" to the OAS. Swap?

Coffin is naturally all for closer contacts and more frequent conferences among cabinet ministers and legislators of the two countries. But he has an acid comment on the meeting of the joint cabinet committee on economic affairs held here in January: the "premature and intense preoccupation of all concerned on the press release that became the work product of the meeting. In the future . . . I doubt that we can avoid serious criticism of this kind of a performance."

How was it that Finance Minister Fleming described that meeting? "Successful . . . very happy and extremely friendly . . . timely exchange of views . . . very useful purpose. . . ."

The Packsack

Skunk to the Rescue

"I SEE," said my old friend and fishing guide Telesphore, who has been in town all week selling his furs, "that you are having a lot of trouble with leaky gas mains lately.

"It seems this natural gas lacks the odor that used to identify the old-fashioned gas made from coal. They tell me they are putting some kind of perfume in it, so that leaks can be more readily detected by the householders. Some say it smells like onions. Others that it is like pepper.

"Well, sir, I came up with a bright idea only last week, back there in my shanty when I was baling up the last of my furs. It so happened I got a few skunks this season. Not that there is any value in skunk pelts, but I hate to waste them.

"Now, there you have an odor known and recognized by Canadians the world over. It is unique. It is unmistakable. And when you smell skunk, you become alert instantly. Phhooole, you say; and start immediately looking around, or else getting the heck out of there.

"The skunk is, in a way, a national institution. So far, except for a small and insignificant consumption of its pelt, no use whatever has been made of the skunk in the economic sense. I suggest the natural gas companies employ a small infusion of skunk in their product for the sake of public safety."

I told Telesphore I would bring the matter to the attention of the authorities.

With the Classics

There is pleasure in the pathless woods,
There is a rapture on the lonely shore,
There is society, where none intrudes,
By the deep Sea, and music in its roar:
I love not Man the less, but Nature more,
From these our interviews, in which I steal
From all I may be, or have been before,
To mingle with the Universe, and feel
What I can ne'er express, yet cannot all conceal.

—BYRON.

Washington Angle

Amending School Law

By DAVID LAWRENCE

A NEW amendment to the federal constitution is needed not only to clear up the conflicting decisions of the courts interpreting the fourteenth amendment on the subject of school integration but to establish firmly the basic rights of organizations of all kinds, including those of a fraternal, religious, educational and business nature.

For today, under the changeful rulings of varying personnel in the supreme court of the United States, a group of citizens, for instance, who form a partnership or a corporation cannot be sure of the "equal protection of the laws" of the States.

Likewise, continuance of parochial schools is not fully assured from a legal standpoint. While a decision of the supreme court of the United States in 1925 held invalid an Oregon law that required the attendance of all children in public schools, this ruling could be wiped out overnight by five justices of the high court on the ground that public psychology is different from what it was when the first ruling was made and that public school education is "inherently" better than private schooling.

* * *

Also, sections 2, 3 and 4 of the fourteenth amendment have become obsolete because these referred only to persons once engaged in the war between the states, all of whom now are dead. So these sections can be eliminated.

There are, moreover, serious doubts whether the fourteenth amendment was ever legally ratified, due to the coercion of state legislatures by federal troops and by other unconstitutional acts of Congress long after the war was over. All such doubts can be removed by adopting a new amendment reaffirming the essential parts of the old provisions and clarifying them at the same time. Here is the text of a substitute, offered by this writer as a possible basis for the drafting of a "new fourteenth amendment." It contains approximately as many words as the original and reads as follows:

"In pursuance of the tenth amendment, which provides that 'the powers not delegated to the United States by the constitution, nor prohibited by it to the states, are reserved to the states respectively, or to the people,' it is hereby declared that the people or any state may provide in its constitution for a referendum vote, at a special election to be called solely for that purpose, and may by such referendum amend the state constitution to establish within any such state complete and exclusive control by the state over its educational institutions, programs and curricula, including the right to assign pupils to any school supported by pubic revenues on whatever basis the state legislature may determine.

"The state legislatures may by law delegate such exclusive authority in whole or in part to local subdivisions.

"Nothing in the existing provisions of the constitution shall be held by any court to impair the purpose of this amendment or of the tenth amendment.

"Congress shall pass no law abridging the rights of the states or denying to any state, or to the people of any federal territory not yet admitted to statehood, the equal protection of the federal law governing appropriations, or by any other law or action, deny to any state, or to the people of any federal territory, the right to the exclusive control of its educational institutions, programs and curricula.

* * *

"The statutes hitherto enacted by congress granting to certain states the exclusive control of their educational institutions, programs and curricula, and any such provisions of the state constitutions hitherto approved by Congress upon admission of such states to statehood which provide for the exclusive control of education by the states, are hereby affirmed as of continuing validity.

"Nothing in this amendment shall deny to the citizens of any state, or federal territory not admitted to statehood, the right to establish private schools, including religious schools; nor shall any state or federal authority prohibit anyone from attending such a private school by requiring attendance at a public school.

"Subject to the foregoing reservations, sections 1 and 5 of the fourteenth amendment are hereby declared in full force and effect, with section 1 amended to read as follows:

"'All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the state wherein they reside. No state shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any state deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law, nor deny to any person, or corporation, or partnership, or any profit-making or non-profit-making organization, within its jurisdiction, the equal protection of the laws.'"